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Forest Service News



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

R-1
1-5-81

Planning for Volcano Progresses

Planning for the Mount St. Helens volcano area of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is progressing well, and the USDA Forest Service will issue a draft environmental statement for public review early next month, according to Regional Forester R.E. Worthington.

The public will have a wide range of alternatives to look at in the statement being developed by the Mount St. Helens planning team and by the recovery personnel who have been studying the area. A final environmental statement in June will display public comment and recommend the course of management.

Considerations for the area will include setting aside a large portion for geologic and educational purposes, timber salvage in the face of unpredictability of the active volcano, and other actions that must mesh in any final plan, Worthington said. "I'm sure there will eventually be a protective designation for some of the area and salvage of timber in some of the area," he added. "It's a matter of how much of each will be of the greatest benefit to the people of the United States."

Safeguarding the geologic, scientific, and interpretive values of the volcano has been a concern of the Forest Service all along, Worthington said, pointing out that the core area was designated a 30,000-acre Geologic Area by Forest Service Chief R. Max Peterson a month before the May 18 eruption and that a planning and recovery team appointed in May was charged with the responsibility of looking at those values as well as all other values of the Mount St. Helens area.

Arvid Ellson, chosen in May to head the planning and recovery effort, has returned to his job as director of Watershed Management. A group under Ellson headed by former team member Robert G. Lewis will complete the team's planning and recovery efforts in conjunction with efforts headed by Gifford Pinchot National Forest Supervisor Robert D. Tokarczyk.

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URGENT RELEASE

4-1
1-1-81

Planning for Volcanic Preparedness

Planning for the Mount St. Helens volcanic area is the first step in the National Forest in preparation for volcanic activity, and the U.S. Forest Service will issue a draft environmental statement for public review early next month, according to Regional Forester R.E. Worthington.

The public will have a wide range of alternatives to choose from in the statement being developed by the Mount St. Helens planning team led by the recently appointed who have been studying the area. A final environmental statement in June will display public comment and recommend the course of management.

Considerations for the area will include existing and a large portion for geologic and educational purposes, threat to life in the face of volcanic activity of the active volcano, and other actions that must be taken in any final plan, Worthington said. "I'm sure there will eventually be a positive decision for some of the area and values of timber in some of the area," he added. "It's a matter of how much of each will be of the greatest benefit to the people of the United States."

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Volcano has been... planning and recovery efforts... National Forest Supervisor Robert H. Johnson.